

Mayor and City Council

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The Honorable David C. Rouzer United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rouzer:

On behalf of the city of Wilmington, thank you for all of your efforts to support the Coastal Storm Damage Reduction (CSDR) projects in Carolina Beach, Wrightsville Beach and Kure Beach. Your continued support and advocacy over the last several years has ensured business and residential property are protected during storms.

I write today in support of New Hanover County's beach nourishment projects. These projects provide enormous benefits to city residents, including by providing a much-needed buffer against storm surge that, without healthy beaches, could result in extensive damage to property in the city.

Your efforts have been critical in securing federal funding for these projects, which as you know are far too cost prohibitive for our local communities to absorb on their own. Like you, we were excited when the county's CSDR projects were authorized as part of the Water Resources Development Act in 2020.

As we learned in January, the county's projects were not included in the final U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work plan. While the City of Wilmington, New Hanover County, the county's beach communities and your office, have advocated for federal funding, we do not have that federal financial commitment yet.

As Mayor, I support your efforts to either find reprogrammed federal funding or to make the funding for the county's beach projects a priority you specifically identify in a future federal budget.

As always, the city of Wilmington is ready to help you advocate for healthy beaches that protect our coastal infrastructure and result in greater protection for city residents.

Respectfully,

Bill Saffo Mayor